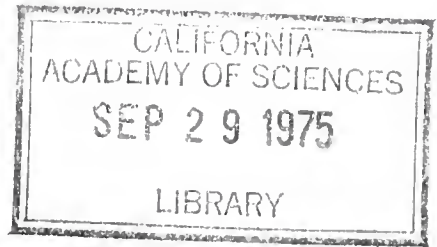


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# the gull

Volume 57

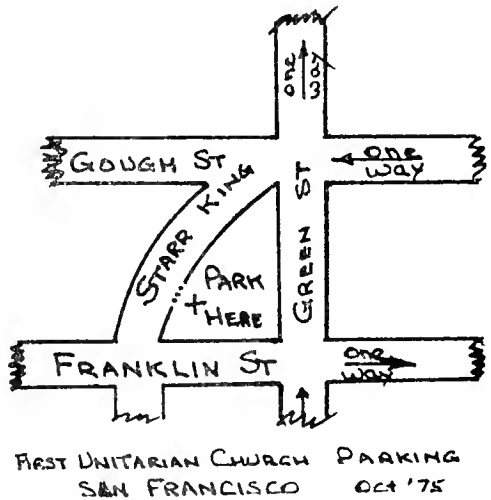
Berkeley, Calif.

October 1975

Number 9

OUR BANNER OPENING PROGRAM is only two weeks away. Don't forget the change to Thursday, Oct. 16 instead of Wednesday. TIME: 7:30 p.m. LOCATION: First Unitarian Church, Franklin & Geary Sts., San Francisco. East Bay people who arrive early can probably find room to park in the church's lot. See map at right. Enthusiasm is running high for this big opener. Come early for good seats.

John Lister-Kaye, the enthusiastic young man who led last year's trip for the Academy, has a series of colorful slides of the birds, scenery and sights of northern Scotland. Those who went on his trip last year speak in glowing terms of their experience. Bonxies and Tysties are both included in his slides, in full Kodachrome. Some of you will have a chance to learn a little more of some of our Atlantic coast species, abundant in north Scotland.



GOOD NEWS! Our chapter has just been awarded a prize of \$1,000, for having the greatest membership increase in the entire Western Region. The Whittell Grant Membership Campaign has just closed, and recognizes our part with a confirming plaque as well as a fat check. Drop in to our office and let Vera show it to you.

Our net increase in members for the first six months of 1975, was 466! Not only is this the highest total in the Region, it is also the greatest gain in the nation. Our closest rival was Milwaukee Audubon, with 330 new members. Within our Region, our friends in Marin Audubon and Santa Clara Audubon tied for second place, each with 185 new members.

Redbud Audubon (Lake County), our fellow member in the Bay Area Audubon Council, won another \$1,000 award for their remarkable 138.99% increase in highest percentage membership increase; they were second in the nation.

The whole Bay Area Audubon Council can be proud of its success in this campaign, with four of its member chapters in the top five places in the Region. Congratulations to all the GGAS members who helped by finding new members among their friends. Especially to Trix Machlis, our newly retired President, and to Carl Kindt, last year's membership chairman, for their long hours of work on the project.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Transportation Coordinators Needed.** We need volunteers who can act as a "phone exchange" to put riders in touch with drivers for our field trips. It involves nothing more than taking phone calls from people who need rides or want riders for a specific trip. If you are interested in helping, please contact the GGAS Office (843-2222, address on back page) or any member of the Field Trips Committee.

**Saturday, Oct. 4 — Pt. Reyes Peninsula.** Meet **9:00 a.m.** at Inverness store. See September *Gull* for details. Leader: Aileen Pierson (587-4163).

**Wednesday, Oct. 8 —** A mid-week trip to the marsh and mudflats near the **Bay Bridge toll plaza**, for shorebirds and terns. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the parking lot behind the Holiday Inn just west of the Powell Street/Emeryville exit off the Eastshore freeway. Leader: Ruth Dement (527-7923).

**Saturday, Oct. 11 — Limantour Natural Area,** Pt. Reyes National Seashore. From Olema take Bear Valley Rd. northwest to Limantour Rd. and turn left. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot at the end of the road. We will walk up the east side of Limantour Spit, then back along the ocean shore (about 7 miles round trip) to study estuarine and pelagic birds. Bring knapsack lunches, telescopes, and boots. Leaders: Garry Page and Nick Story (527-0210).

**Sunday, Oct. 12 —** An instructional trip to the **Bay Bridge toll plaza** to study terns, with emphasis on Forster's and Common Terns. Bring scopes if you have them. Trip will end at noon. Meet at **8:00 a.m.**, same place as Oct. 8 trip. Leader: Steve Bailey (548-9507).

**Two trips to Marin Headlands** for fall migrants, hawks in particular: For both trips bring lunch and meet at the Vista Point at north end of Golden Gate Bridge. Golden Gate Transit riders take No. 20 bus and **ask driver** to let you off at Vista Point.

**Wednesday, Oct. 14.** Mini-trip for seniors. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** Further information: Harriet Fraser (661-4787).

**Saturday, Oct. 18.** Meet at **9:00 a.m.** Study hawk plumages prior to trip. Leader for both trips: Brian McCaffrey (824-7320).

**Sunday, Oct. 19 — Annadel State Park**, Sonoma County. From Hwy. 12 turn south on Los Alamos Rd., go one block and turn right. Where the road forks in a few hundred yards, bear left. Drive about ½ mile and cross the bridge over the canal. Follow signs. Drive through to large parking lot at end of road. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893).

**Saturday, Oct. 25 and Wednesday, Oct. 29** — No leader trips to **Tilden Park**. Meet AC Transit bus No. 67 **8:15 a.m.** at corner of Spruce St. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. Lunch optional.

**Sunday, Oct. 26** — Explore **Land's End, Sutro Park, and Seal Rock** in San Francisco for bay, shore, and land birds. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the large unpaved parking lot uphill from the Cliff House (take Geary St. bus lines). Bring lunch. Leader: Peter Allen (781-0148).

**Saturday, Nov. 1** — **Benicia State Park** at high tide for marsh birds (Black Rails if we are lucky). Take "Benicia State Park" exit off US 780, about 2 miles south-east of Vallejo. Meet at **10:00 a.m.** at the automatic toll gate entrance. Bring four quarters for gate, or park and pool rides. Bring lunch and be prepared to wade through several inches of water. Leader: Clarence Smith (524-2525).

**Sunday, Nov. 2** — A leisurely trip to **Bodega Bay** for shore and ocean birds. Little walking. Meet at **10:00 a.m.** at the first *paved* parking lot inside Doran County Park, about one mile south of the town of Bodega Bay (have 50¢ for toll gate). Leader: Jim Clayton (524-2917).

**Make reservations now** in Gridley on Hwy. 99 north of Sacramento for the night of Dec. 6, if you are planning to come on the **Dec. 6/7 Sacramento Valley refuges trip**. Two good motels are: Markay's Motel, Gridley, Ca. 95948 (916 846-3768), and Pacific Motel, Box 235, Gridley, Ca. 95948 (916 846-9915). Mention Audubon. There will be a one day bus trip to Gridley on Dec. 7, for those who want to come for only one day. Details will be in November *Gull*.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## HAPPENINGS

**FISH & GAME STICKERS:** So far, 828 Californians have donated \$7,000 to the California Department of Fish and Game for support and protection of non-game species. Are you among them? Their great need is for funds to preserve habitat for purposes other than hunting and fishing before our wild lands are all gone. Most of their funds come from sale of fishing and hunting licenses to sportsmen, up to 90% according to F & G Director Charles Fullerton, and they naturally want their "stake" in the results. To do your share, and make it possible for the Fish and Game people to provide more areas closed to hunting and fishing, send \$5.00 or more to "DECAL", Box DFG, Sacramento, CA 95801. — Then place your decal on your bumper and advertise your support of this program: perhaps others will see your decal and follow your example. Now is the time to act!

**OFFICE NEWS:**

LIBRARIAN Lisa Johnsen extends an invitation to you to visit and use our newly catalogued library. Each volume now bears a catalog number, in the same system used at UC. Our retiring librarian, Vi Homem, gave her expertise in library matters, in addition to a great deal of time and energy. Without Vi's help, our library would still be in its former uncatalogued state. Thank you, Vi!

While visiting our library, take time to become acquainted with Vera, our office manager, and her helper. They are well-informed on many things of interest to birders, in addition to their office duties, and you will feel well rewarded when you leave.

Look around the walls, see our new Whittell plaque, and study the fine prints of the pileated woodpeckers (John James Audubon) and whooping crane (Roger Tory Peterson). Both are gifts by GGAS members to us for your attention and enjoyment. A complete set of *"The Gull"* is also there, thanks to the persistent and diligent efforts of our fellow members in ferreting out and replacing missing numbers.

**VACATION TIPS:**

Many offerings are now being made by new and old established groups. Most of them ask for publicity in *"The Gull"*, but, since we cannot give details of their offerings, we will supply you with brief, general data, and where to get more information.

One of these is "The Nature School", offering a variety of services both at home and abroad, at low prices. For details, call Mr. Lin Hines, 835-8597, or write to him at 479 Hanover Av., Oakland, CA 94606.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS and adjacent mainland highlands, are beckoning. In setting up this trip, George Peyton has told us that it is scheduled for March-April, 1976. Details can be obtained from Siemer & Hand, Ltd., in San Francisco (One Embarcadero Center; phone (415) 788-7186). George will also present our November meeting with his travelogue to Alaska. Details will be included in the November *Gull*, but the time is November 13 (Thursday), the hour is 7:30 p.m., and the location is Rotary Science Center at Lake Merritt in Oakland.

**AUGUST OBSERVATIONS**

2 early **Red-necked Grebes** were at Limantour Aug. 16 and 3 were there Aug. 27 (GP, LS, DS). A **Laysan Albatross** observed in Monterey Bay Aug. 16 (EA) was on an unusual date for this rarely-found species. By far the most exciting news was the report of California's first record of the **Red-footed Booby**, a near-adult that landed on Southeast Farallon Island Aug. 26 (PRBO). In the United States this bird has been only a casual visitor to the Dry Tortugas off Florida or in the Gulf Stream; however, it breeds off the west coast of Mexico. But its occurrence this year is unexpected as water temperatures are reported down and this species is accustomed to warmer currents. One of the few Alameda Co. records of the **Lesser (American) Golden Plover** was at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Aug. 31. August and early September are the best months for some of our



regular rarer shorebirds. I received reports of **47 Baird's Sandpipers**, **17 Lesser Yellowlegs**, **11 Pectoral Sandpipers**, and **4 Solitary Sandpipers**. Even better was a Stilt Sandpiper at Woodland Sept. 1. Although these are by no means total figures, they represent approximately the correct proportions. Good numbers of Jaegers, mostly Pomarine, were seen off Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., in late August (BS, PM). An **Arctic Tern**, rare inside S. F. Bay, was found at the Toll Plaza Aug. 17 (JM, SFB). Also at an unusual location was a **Marbled Murrelet** in Kirby Cove Aug. 18 (MLR, MW). The pair of **Chimney Swifts** continued to be seen flying around the chimney in Davis through Sept. 1. Our area begins to receive "eastern" fall migrants in August and this year was no exception. A **Black-and-white Warbler**, **3 Northern Waterthrush**, and an **Indigo Bunting** were on the Farallons (PRBO) and an **American Redstart** was at San Gregorio, San Mateo Co. Aug. 27 (BS, PM). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at the Abandoned Ranch Aug. 23-Sept. 3 provides one of the few records for Pt. Reyes (BY). Unusual was the discovery of a **Green-tailed Towhee** at Waddell Creek, Santa Clara Co., Aug. 19 (BE).

*Observers:* Erie Anderson, Stephen F. Bailey Bruce Elliot, Peter Metropulos, Joe Morlan, Gary Page, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Mary L. Rosegay, Barry Sauppe, Dave Shuford, Lynne Stenzel, Mike Wihler, Bob Yutzy.

**DON ROBERSON**, Observations Editor  
2244 Encinal Ave. No. 5  
Alameda, Ca. 94501 865-2462

## Conservation

### INDISCRIMINATE KILLING OF COYOTES AND OVERGRAZING DESTROY RANGELANDS

Elvis Stahr, National Audubon President, told the Dept. of the Interior that public land managers and ranchers who practice indiscriminate warfare against natural predators, and who condone overgrazing, are undermining the food capacity of American rangelands. His statement was also sent to the Commissioners of Agriculture and Administrators of State Lands of 11 Western states. Stahr said that poisoning and other broadside programs aimed at reducing predator populations result in feeding more grass to rabbits and other rodents instead of to cattle and sheep. Overgrazing leads to erosion that destroys topsoil, fills stream channels and reservoirs with silt and gravel, and depletes water resources through rapid run off.

An Audubon Staff Report summarizing scientific findings, shows a relationship between excessive predator control and land abuse. Years of study have proven the beneficial role of wild predators such as coyotes, foxes, eagles, and hawks, which feed on rabbits and other grass eaters. The report warns that the mass destruction of predators, and the abuse of public lands by overgrazing, have no place in our society. Aldo Leopold has taught us that if the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is important, even though we may not fully understand it.

National Audubon calls for official resistance to the pressures of Western livestock associations. It urges the Secretary of the Interior to direct the Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Services to reserve their efforts to reduce predator populations, and instead to institute programs to restore depleted rangelands. Public Land Managers and Commissioners of Agriculture should work from facts supplied by competent, professional biologists before continuing destruction of predators such as coyotes, foxes, hawks, and eagles. In their total role, predators benefit ranching and agriculture.

To make your position known to these officials, you should write to:  
ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ROSE ELIZABETH BIRD  
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
1220 NORTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

DIRECTOR OF STATE LANDS COMMISSION  
1807 13TH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

**WHALES:** At the International Whaling Commission's annual meeting in London on June 27, the world's whales were placed in three categories on the basis of their ability to survive. For the first time, there are quotas for all oceans. Audubon President Elvis Stahr, delegate to the I.W.C., feels that protection has been voted, "to prevent any additional whale species from declining to the brink of extinction". Japan has accepted the new quotas and there is hope that the Soviet Union will follow suit before the October 2 deadline, when the grace period ends. National Audubon is on record as saying that Japanese and Soviet acceptance of the new I.W.C. plan could well provide satisfactory grounds for suspending the economic boycott against them.

**ARIZONA BIRDS THREATENED:** Five Arizona Audubon chapters are asking us for aid in financing their costly litigation in trying to stop the Central Arizona Project being promoted by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The four dams of this project will have a severe impact, if built, upon the habitat of such birds as Beardless Flycatcher, Black Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Ospreys, Bald Eagles and Mississippi Kites in the Sonoran Desert. Anyone wishing to help pay their expenses in this matter should send checks to:

COMMITTEE TO FINANCE THE C.C.A.P.  
P. O. BOX 15102  
PHOENIX, AZ 85060

Additional information can be obtained from our office, 843-2222.

—SHIRLEY TAYLOR, *Conservation Committee*

[Editor's comment: This dam project, if it is built, will undoubtedly drive out of the United States, many of the species that many of you have seen as guests of the Peabody's Mile-Hi Ranch. Maricopa Audubon has prepared a fine resume of the project, its 10 pages filled with facts and diagrams, as well as narrative. We recommend this brochure to your serious study; we were both astonished and flabbergasted at the potential it bears for destruction of our already reduced wild lands. A few of you have seen the Thick-billed Parrot, once an occasional visitor to the Chiricahua Mountains, but which is probably now extinct in the United States because man has destroyed its U.S. food source. A number of birds are apt to follow it into oblivion if the C. A. P. builds this project. Contributors of \$100 or more will receive an 11"x14" print of a very nice Gray Hawk nest. ED.]

Our office needs a good, fireproof, 4-drawer filing cabinet. Call Vera if you know where one may be available.

Justice has touched a couple of wildlife killers. In Kansas, the killing of an eagle cost its killer a fine of \$1,500, and a jail term. In California, the killer of a Bighorn ram in Siskiyou County, cost its killer a \$3,000 fine and a jail sentence. In each case, parole was offered the shooter, but we hope that the stiff fines and jail sentences meted out will deter other "hunters" or "sportsmen" from similar transgressions.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For Audubon Canyon Ranch

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Gift of:</i>
Assemblyman Edwin L. Z'Berg .....	Golden Gate Audubon Society
Copeland Dorsey .....	Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Troxell
Stanley Bialos .....	T.I.F.O.

For GGAS

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Gift of:</i>
Edna Cooper .....	Elna Broo

<i>In honor of:</i>	<i>Gift of:</i>
J. E. McClellan's 80th birthday .....	Howard and Marge Rosenthal

It is with profound sadness that this Society notes the death of Assemblyman Edwin L. Z'Berg, a dedicated and effective leader for the protection of California's environment and a friend of conservation.

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or if unspecified, at the discretion of the Board. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a co-sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. to Mrs. Robert C. Johnsen, Corresponding Secretary, 4 Del Valle, Orinda, CA 94563. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations, and bequests will be acknowledged in *THE GULL*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society, by the Corresponding Secretary.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.  
Office: 843-2222  
Berkeley, California 94705  
2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206

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Bill Love (581-4449)  
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Publications, Sharon Sauve (526-8746)  
Clarence F. Smith (524-2525)  
Publicity, Christopher G. Carpenter (376-6802)

Above are all members of the Board of Directors.

Recorded bird report: 843-2211

Bird Observations, Don Roberson (865-2462)

Northern Calif. Rare Bird Alert, Joe Morlan (654-1358)

Conservation Hotline Editor, Anne Greenfelder (843-2222)

Office Manager, Vera Paraschak (843-2222)

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office  
2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. It will be forwarded.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$15 per year (individual); \$18 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks (no cash) payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$3 per year; single issues 30¢. High school and college student membership \$7 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon Society in 1948.

*The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.